

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks, wherein Claims 1, 3, and 5-7 have been amended, and Claim 2 has been canceled from the application. Currently, Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending in the present application.

As an initial matter, Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to remove this informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 8-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,607,263 to *Nespeta et al.* However, the Examiner indicates that Claims 2-7 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As a result, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 2. In addition, Applicants have rewritten allowable Claims 6 and 7 into independent form including the recitations of base Claim 1. It is submitted that independent Claims 1, 6, and 7, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she should be contacted at the number indicated below.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required,

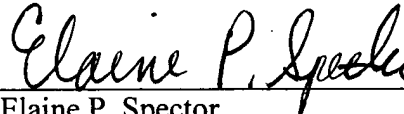
including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR
EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: April 11, 2006
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
Customer No. 55694
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005-1209
Tel. No.: 202-842-8800
EPS:mk

By:



Elaine P. Spector
Reg. No. 40,116
Attorney for Applicants
Tel. No.: (202) 842-8863
Fax No.: (202) 842-8465